

'Golden Hand Shake Scheme' for nationalised banks.

### **Changes in System of Customs Duty Collection**

1732. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Revenue Service Association have suggested some structural changes in the present system of customs duty collection;

(b) if so, the salient features of these suggestions; and

(c) the number of these suggestions accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Certain suggestions have been received from the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) Association on simplification of customs procedures.

(b) The salient features of these suggestions are as follows:

(a) Introduction of Green Channel for cargo clearance;

(b) Provision for issue of Advance Classification Advices;

(c) Provision for a system of Advance Assessment of Bills of Entry;

(d) Introduction of Self-Assessment procedure;

(e) Selective testing of samples and use of testing facilities of reputed private laboratories;

(f) Review and weeding out of tariff notifications;

(g) Staggering of assessment work on the appraisers table;

(h) Shifting of some of the appraisement work to docks and warehouses;

(i) Early computerisation of various technical areas in the Custom Houses and docks including processing of documents on the computer;

(j) Improvement of the testing facilities; and

(k) Strengthening of the intelligence and investigative set up.

(c) Suggestions have been received on 31st January, 1992. Discussions have been initiated already with Collectors. Further discussions are due to take place before decisions are taken.

[*Translation*]

### **Foreign Debt**

1733. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the foreign debt during the financial year 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details of the debt at present;

(c) whether any time bound plan has been prepared by the Government to repay this debt;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Information as at the end of financial year 1991-92 is not available as the accounts for the period are not yet finalised.

(c) to (e). Foreign debt is being repaid on due dates according to the terms and conditions of each loan. The Government will ensure that this burden does not exceed the capacity of the economy to service such loans. The Government have already introduced a programme of economic reforms aimed at short-term stabilisation combined with longer terms restructuring. These reforms would improve the economics condition of the country and revitalise our growth process including our export earning capacity so as to enhance our capacity to repay the loans.

[English]

#### Development of National Highways in West Bengal

1734. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal for the development of National Highways in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). 45 numbers of estimates for Road/Bridge Projects on national Highways in West Bengal have been received from the Govern-

ment of West Bengal during the current financial year. Out of these, 24 numbers costing Rs. 2097.24 lacs have been sanctioned. 10 numbers costing Rs. 135.17 lacs are under sanction, 3 numbers costing Rs. 1452.47 lacs have been returned due to various reasons and 8 numbers costing Rs. 2429.60 lacs are under various stages of examination in consultation with the State Public Works Department.

#### Tea Exports

1735. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea exported to the erstwhile USSR in the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) the countries to which tea is exported in bulk quantities; and

(c) the prospect of tea exports during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Exports of tea from India to USSR during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 (April-January) were as follows:-

(Qty : M. Kgs.)

Year	Quantity
1989-90	121.87
1990-91	112.85
1991-92 (April-January)	102.04*

\*Estimated

(b) UK, Iran, ARE, Poland, Saudi-Arabia, Irish, Republic, Netherlands, Germany, Yugoslavia, USA, UAE, Morocco, Japan,